



THE Lantern

May 2015

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May 19 Program: Crestview Students Building Huge Lionel Layout

Ron Meade, headmaster at Lakewood Christian School in Crestview, is establishing an o gauge model railroading club and building a Lionel layout as the primary extracurricular activity for his students. Ron is our program for the May 19 BBMRA meeting.

Lakewood Christian is renovating a small building on campus which will house a 30 by 40-foot o gauge layout, including sound and Command Control locomotives. Ron just purchased a Lionel Big Boy among other locomotives.

As they prepare to build the layout and in connection with one of their academic classes on engineering, students are building replicas of the Sunshine Skyway Bridge over Tampa Bay and the Huey P. Long Bridge in New Orleans. Students also will scratch build or kit build structures for the layout and weather them. They will do all of the scenery, track laying and wiring. The school already has constructed a special workshop.

Ron will bring over digital photos and a video tour of Lakewood Christian as part of his presentation. Ron also will show video of a proto-type roundhouse in North Carolina which caught his interest.

Ron and two colleagues also will have a lot of questions for club members about building layouts beginning with the appropriate bench work. This should be an unusual and very entertaining program and we hope as many of you as possible will attend the 19th and participate.

Full Steam Ahead for 24th Tallahassee Model Railroad Show & Sale

June Meeting Rescheduled for June 23, Week of Show

As has become the club's custom, the June meeting will be on the fourth Tuesday, June 23, which is three days before the show weekend. We will devote the entire meeting to last minute planning for the show. There will be division meetings as well as the club-wide meeting.

*** BBMRA Meetings ***

May 19, 2015

Third Tuesday-BBMRA, 7:30 p.m.

Ron Meade, headmaster, Lakewood Christian School, Crestview – his students are building a huge Lionel layout.

“Old’ Tallahassee Antique Car Museum, 3550 Mahan Drive.

June 23, 2015

June meeting is Fourth Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.

Last Things to Do for June 27 Show & Sale – club and division meetings.



Marc Beshara/Andy Zimmerman Show Update May 19

BBMRA President Andy Zimmerman and Show Coordinator Marc Beshara will update us briefly on planning and preparations for the June 27 show and sale. Marc should have a list of vendors who have been confirmed so far and operating layouts.

From the club, we are planning the N, HO and Large Scale T Traks, plus Thomas the Tank Engine, the Time Saver, the Live Steamers and perhaps other layouts as well.

Please be ready to volunteer for specific tasks Friday, June 26, and Saturday, June 27, the day of the show. As we discussed during the Committee of the Whole last month, we need a volunteer coordinator; club members to fill slots staffing the ticket booth; and floating volunteers to handle a variety of tasks throughout Saturday. We need as many club members as possible Friday afternoon, doing last minute things like installing extension cords and helping vendors unload as they arrive into the Fairgrounds. We will need lots of help breaking down late Saturday.

It is almost here. Club members are stepping up as John Sullenberger would have expected and another outstanding show and sale is in the making.

Karl Rehbaum's Family Donating HO Trains to BBMRA

Karl Rehbaum, a naval veteran of Vietnam and a clever HO modeler and active BBMRA member in the 1990's, died April 18 in Edgewater. Karl and his wife, Sharon, lived in Crawfordville until moving to Edgewater in 2002.

Karl built an HO layout at his Crawfordville home and it included scale nude bathers, which always was an attention getter. He was very active in the BBMRA and HO Division.

Sharon and Karl had decided before his death to donate many of his HO trains, buildings and portions of a layout to the Big Bend Model Railroad Association. Sharon's son, Ian Livingston, will be bringing up the trains sometime this summer and they will be delivered to HO Coordinator Art Wilson.

Karl was 68 when he passed away. He was a U.S. Navy veteran retiring as Lieutenant after 21 years of service. He served in the Vietnam War. In recent years, he had been a long haul truck driver.

"I am not sure if you saw in the Democrat that Karl passed away on April 18. He was not in pain and passed peacefully at home, with Hospice and myself at his side," Sharon writes. "At some point, soon, my son, Ian Livingston, will come down here to our house and collect some boxes of Karl's train cars, accessories, buildings, and two partial layout sections. One is the beach/campground scene, with a lighthouse...It is something that is too nice to pitch in the garbage or sell for \$5.00."

Sam Miller

National Train Day at the Depot in Greensboro

BBMRA was represented at the former Apalachicola Northern depot in Greensboro on May 9.

The depot has undergone a complete restoration and now houses a very nice museum.



BBMRA Important Events for 2015!!

BBMRA Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of each month, 7:30 p.m., Old Antique Car Museum, 3550 Mahan Drive.

Lionel Interest Group Operating Sessions: Most Sunday afternoons, 1:30 p.m. – Sam Miller's, Woodgate. Call 850-459-3012.

May 9, National Train Day, BBMRA operating session at the restored depot in Greensboro.

May 19: BBMRA Meeting- Ron Meade, headmaster at Lakewood Christian School in Crestview; his students are building a large Lionel layout.

Late Spring/Early Summer: Lowes & Home Depot Setups – just before the annual show & sale.

June 6-7: 13th Tampa Model Train Show & Sale, Florida State Fairgrounds.

June 23: BBMRA Meeting (Moved back one week): Last Minute Things to do for June 27 Show; club and division meetings.

June 26-June 27: BBMRA Show & Sale, Leon County Fairgrounds. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, June 27. Setup Friday afternoon, beginning at noon. Breakdown beginning at 4 p.m. on Saturday and until everyone is out of the Fairgrounds.

July 11: 53rd Florida Rail Fair, Volusia County Fairgrounds, Deland.

July 21: BBMRA Meeting: Elections and 2015-16 dues.

August 1; Thomas the Tank Engine, WFSU Studios, 1600 Red Barber Plaza, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

August 8: 49th Atlanta Model Train Show.

August 18: BBMRA Meeting.

August 22-23: The Villages Summer Train Show, 9a to 4p on Saturday, 10a to 3p on Sunday. The Villages near Leesburg.

September 19-20: Wiregrass Annual Model Railroad Show & Sale, National Peanut Festival and Fairgrounds, Dothan, AL.

September 12: Garage Sale – Model Trains, Toys, Hobbies. Sam Miller and anyone else interested. 3008 Stillwood Court, Woodgate in Tallahassee. Bring your own tables.

September 22: BBMRA Meeting.

October 3: Florida Rail Fair, Volusia County Fairgrounds, Deland.

October 20; BBMRA Meeting

October 22-25: NMRA Sunshine Region 2015 Convention, Jacksonville.

October TBD: Farm Day, Tallahassee Museum of Natural History (Junior Museum),

November TBA: BBMRA Tour of Layouts and fall 'Dutch Treat' Early Supper.

November 17: BBMRA Meeting.

December 11: Sam Miller/Linda Medlin Holiday Reception, Woodgate. Call 850-459-3012.

December 19-20: 14th Tampa Model Train Show & Sale, Florida State Fairgrounds.

January 9-10, 2016: 54th Florida Rail Fair, Volusia County Fairgrounds, Deland.

January 16, 2016: Atlanta Model Train Show.

Send items for the Lantern to Sam Miller, smiller@flains.org and Doug Gyurickso, akdoug@mindspring.com - suggestions, calendar items, Classifieds listing, tips, photos and anything else which is legal and not terribly dangerous

Folkston Trainfest 2015



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Charlton County Herald website. The header includes the newspaper's name, 'Serving Folkston and all of Charlton County - Gateway to the Okefenokee', and the date 'Wednesday, April 15, 2015 Edition'. A search bar is visible. The main content area features a featured photo of a man in a red cap working on model rail cars, with the headline 'Trainwatchers come to Folkston'. The article text describes a bi-annual pilgrimage for Railwatch 2015, mentioning activities like a potluck barbecue, socializing, a pancake breakfast, a fundraising chicken lunch sale, and a photography contest. A sidebar on the left lists various website categories like News, Sports, and Classifieds. A weather widget for Folkston, GA, shows a high of 81°F and a low of 64°F.

By David Brazell

BBMRA members Paul Schneider and David Brazell journeyed to Folkston, Georgia, on the 10th and 11th of April to attend the annual Trainfest 2015 sponsored by the Folkston/Charlton County Development Authority. There were more than 100 people in attendance on Saturday to view some presentations at the depot and watch all day as traffic slammed through the “Folkston Funnel”. Some railfans, including the two of us, stayed in Folkston Friday night.

Folkston is a unique location because every train that runs in and out of Florida goes through

Folkston except for one due East and West (that comes through Tallahassee) and one Norfolk-Southern Line. You cross both of these lines on the way to Folkston. About 70 trains a day pass through the double tracks located at the Funnel.

We got there Friday afternoon and, after clearing it with the local authorities, we went up under the overpass. I got some video from the overpass but after about an hour we decided to leave. After supper, we waited late into the night for the Juice Train to pass by and we were not disappointed when the “Juice” rolled through Southbound about 10:30 p.m. Lighting was set up for viewers so we were able to see the traffic and I shot some great video.

After a good night's sleep at a local motel (I recommend the Western) we were back at the viewing stand at about 8 a.m. hoping to see the Northbound Juice Train in daylight. I always bring model train car work to do between trains and I sensed that someone was taking my picture. Sure enough, it was a reporter with the Charlton County Register. She said my picture would appear in the on-line version of the paper (and it did). She gave me her card and later sent me a hard copy of the paper. I was honored to be in the paper. I've included the picture she took.

We also met several new friends, especially from Orlando's model railroad club. The main guy there was Paul Harris. He goes by “Grumpy”. They run trains in Orlando there every Saturday evening and he invited any of us to stop by whenever we would be in the area. Despite his nickname, he was a warm wonderful guy and I intend to take him up on his invitation sometime when I'm in that area.

About 9:45 a.m. we were thrilled to see a northbound intermodel coming through and then the Southbound Juice Train rolled through at the same time.

The weather was iffy most of the day and about 4 p.m. or so there was a little rain, but not enough to dampen the spirits. A Northbound had stopped just South of the first crossing and several North and Southbounds came through while he was waiting. Finally came his time to leave and I got some good shots of him departing.

We enjoyed 43 trains in one-and-a-half days. Traffic included 13 mixed freights, 12 intermodels, six coal drags, and four Amtrak passenger trains; the rest was a mixture of grain, tank and auto-rack consists.

About 6 p.m. we were offered another bonus. Our hosts were fixing supper! They offered pork sandwiches with pork and beans and soft drinks. We enjoyed the supper awaiting the last AMTRAK Northbound of the day. He came through about 6:30 and we decided to leave. It was probably a good thing because we hit a storm on the way back to Tallahassee.

If you have a spare day and want to relax and enjoy some great train traffic, Folkston is the place to go. You will not be disappointed. The facilities are clean. There are restrooms and the viewing platform is equipped with a scanner so you can hear railroad traffic over the radio. Even without sound, you can see signals for Northbound traffic and tell when an approaching train is headed in that direction. If you want more information about Folkston and the Folkston Funnel, their web address is: <http://www.folkston.com/> There is even a link to an article created a few years ago by TV personality Bill Geist about Folkston and train watching in which BBMRA member Dan King and I briefly appear. We had a great two days and can't wait until next year!

FEC's All Aboard Florida Seeks Tax-Exempt Financing



(We hope to have a meeting program on All Aboard Florida this fall.)

From the News service of Florida

THE CAPITAL, TALLAHASSEE, April 20, 2015..... A private passenger-rail venture got the endorsement of one of the state's most-powerful business lobbying groups Monday in seeking \$1.75 billion in tax-exempt bonds. Meanwhile, a quartet of legislators from the region most opposed to All Aboard Florida's Miami-to-Orlando rail project questioned if the state will eventually have to subsidize the service, which is proposing 32 trains a day in 2017.

"What happens if the project fails, who is left holding the bag?" asked Rep. Gayle Harrell, R-Stuart, during the Florida Development Financial Corp.'s four-hour hearing on the bond request.

Mark Wilson, president and chief executive officer of the Florida Chamber of Commerce, said the project will become an economic engine across Florida and is needed to avoid the "growing highway gridlock" expected as the state continues its growth. Wilson added that support for the "once-in-a-generation opportunity for Florida" extends beyond South and Central Florida, with officials in Tampa and Jacksonville waiting to be connected to the passenger line.

All Aboard Florida has requested the private-activity bonds to fund construction and rail improvements in Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, Brevard and Orange counties, which are in support of the project.

Stations are planned in Miami, Fort Lauderdale, West Palm Beach and Orlando. Brevard County is undertaking a study to determine where a station could eventually be located.

The bond application doesn't include work that is needed along the tracks in Martin, St. Lucie and Indian counties, where no stops are currently planned and opposition to the passenger service is strongest.

Residents from Indian River, St. Lucie and Martin counties and northern Palm Beach County contend the passenger trains will delay emergency rescue services, increase noise and decrease property values, while dangerously mixing passenger cars with freight on lines that run through a number of east-coast downtowns.

Florida East Coast Railroad, All Aboard Florida's parent company, is expected to pay for rail work along the Treasure Coast, estimated at nearly \$400 million.

Florida Development Finance Corp. Executive Director Bill Spivey said All Aboard Florida still has paperwork to submit, but a decision is expected by the board before July 1.

The meeting was dominated by business and government representatives behind the project.

The project has support from Universal Studios and the Orlando Magic. Lobbyist Ron Book, representing county and local governments in Brevard, Miami-Dade and Broward counties, called the project "a ticket for the future."

All Aboard Florida President Michael Reininger, attending the hearing, said tickets for the 3½-hour Miami-to-Orlando run should be comparable to the cost of driving a car yet lower than an airline flight. Ticket prices will also be flexible to fill trains depending upon the time of day and year, he said.

BBMRA Meeting Minutes for April 21, 2015

President Andy Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 7:P.M.

Revisions to the March meeting minutes to correct the spelling of Ina Ecklund's name and correct a reference to Atlas H.O. #8 Custom Line Turnouts. With this, the minutes were accepted.

New Business: Treasurer's Report: Drew Hackmeyer says we are in the black.

Division Reports/Small Scale: There is a work party at Andy's to refurbish a module on Saturday morning.

HO Division: Art Wilson announces a workshop at the new car museum Saturday 4/25/15 at 11 A.M.

Large Scale: Sam Miller reminded us that the work day (April 4th) at Eric's outdoor railroad was a good day. Eric and Ina appreciated the help that came out and Eric got one loop running. (He has since gotten the other mainline running as well.) Eric and his wife were celebrating Eric's birthday also. Sam noted that a few weeks earlier, Eric had celebrated his 80th birthday and several Large Scale members came for the Sunday afternoon party.

Sam also announced as was reported in the Lantern that WFSU is having a Thomas the Tank Engine festival through a National Public Broadcasting grant Saturday, August 1, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. BBMRA has been invited to participate. Randy Lombardo will set up his Thomas layout and there is room for a T Trak layout – possibly the O gauge.

NMRA: Barrett Johnson noted that there was a Jacksonville area NMRA meet recently hosted by the Green Cove Springs model railroading club. The club has an old warehouse with Lionel, N, HO and S gauge layouts, which Barrett says is impressive.

Good of the Group: John Sykes said anyone looking for Atlas H.O. #8 Custom Line turnouts can find them at the Atlas web site. (Sam incorrectly reported this as Bachmann in the Lantern.

Andy Zimmerman says the Train Show will be good to go for June 27th. Many items of concern that John Sullenberger had dealt with are being worked out. Show Coordinator Mark Beshara said he has vendors lined up and they will be able to be located in much the same places as last year.

Drew Hackmeyer followed with a "Committee of the Whole" discussion by the club of things to do to get ready for the June 27 show. Drew went around the room asking present members what they did at last year's show and what can they recommend or do to help with this year's show. There were many who brought up the usual needs for the show, along with new ideas and suggestions for this year's show.

Andy announced the Gadsden Railroad Day in Greensboro will be May 9th. Details are being worked out as to space, and layouts that may be wanted.

I counted 36 members in attendance. The meeting adjourned at 8:04 P.M.

This was a run trains night; testing along with running trains commenced quickly.

Doug Gyuricsko